

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 260959Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2885

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0471

NODIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR ZA MASS

SUBJECT: KAUNDA REQUEST FOR ARMS

REF: STATE 044638

1. WE TEND TO DOUBT THAT KAUNDA PUT TINY ROWLAND UP TO CONTACTING USG REGARDING REPORTED ZAMBIAN INTEREST IN OBTAINING SIX TO TEN SAM 7 ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES. RATHER, WE SUSPECT THAT BIG-TIME OPERATOR AND PROMOTER THAT HE IS, ROWLAND DECIDED TO ADVISE EMBASSY LONDON OF HIS INTENTIONS, KNOWING HIS APPROACH WOULD BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON. WE ASSUME ROWLAND HAD TWO PURPOSES IN MIND: (A) TO GET A GREEN LIGHT FROM USG THAT IT WOULD HAVE NO RPT NO OBJECTION IF ROWLAND APPROACHED EGYPTIANS FOR THESE MISSILES ON KAUNDA'S BEHALF; AND (B) POSSIBLY TO LAY GROUND FOR A FALLBACK POSITION TO OBTAIN COMPARABLE ANTI-AIRCRAFT OR OTHER MODERN WEAPONRY FROM US DIRECTLY OR FROM ANOTHER SOURCE WHICH MIGHT HAVE US BLESSING, SHOULD EFFORT WITH EGYPTIANS FAIL.

2. IN HIS OWN MIND ROWLAND MAY HAVE LINKED ZAMBIA'S ARMS NEEDS WITH THE US BECAUSE KAUNDA COULD HAVE TOLD HIM US IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR ZAMBIA. IT IS INDEED IMPORTANT, AS ROWLAND SUGGESTS, THAT USG DEMONSTRATE ITS INTEREST IN ZAMBIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY AT THIS TIME. IN POINT OF FACT WE ARE ENGAGED IN JUST SUCH AN EXERCISE BY HELPING TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO MEET ZAMBIA'S CURRENT

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BOP PROBLEMS. I BELIEVE KAUNDA IS CONVINCED OF OUR SINCERITY

IN WANTING TO HELP HIM AND ZAMBIA AND THAT HE DOES NOT NEED ADDITIONAL PROOF OF THIS IN FORM OF TOKEN OFFER OF ARMS. IF KAUNDA DOES NEED OR WANT OUR HELP IN OBTAINING ARMS, HE IS QUITE CAPABLE OF COMING DIRECTLY TO US FOR THIS ASSISTANCE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH TINY ROWLAND. KAUNDA COULD HAVE MADE SOME OFF-HAND REMARK ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF AROUSING US SUSPICIONS WERE ZAMBIA TO ACQUIRE EVEN TOKEN AMOUNT OF NEW SOVIET ARMS BUT KNOWING HIM IT COULD HAVE BEEN A FACETIOUS REMARK WHICH ROWLAND MAY HAVE ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES.

3. I RECALL AN EARLIER ONE OF ROWLAND'S NOW LEGENDARY FISHING EXPEDITIONS IN WHICH HE MADE AN IMPRACTICAL IF NOT HALF-BAKED APPROACH TO DEPARTMENT FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT TO FERRY 200,000 TONS OF STRANDED ZAMBIAN CARGO FROM LOBITO TO LUSAKA. ON INQUIRY WE DISCOVERED THAT THIS WAS ROWLAND'S OWN IMAGINATIVE INITIATIVE AND NOT RPT NOT SOMETHING ZAMBIANS HAD PUT HIM UP TO.

4. FOR THESE REASONS I DO NOT THINK ROWLAND'S HINTS ABOUT US ARMS AID FOR ZAMBIA REQUIRE RESPONSE. WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE SOME CLEAR SIGN FROM KAUNDA HIMSELF THAT ROWLAND IS HIS AUTHORIZED AGENT IN THIS FISHING EXPEDITION. WITHOUT THIS SIGN IT WOULD BE RISKY AND EVEN PRESUMPTUOUS FOR US TO ASSUME ROWLAND IS SPEAKING FOR KAUNDA.

5. WE LEAVE IT TO DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER, IN LIGHT OUR OVERALL ARMS CONTROL POLICIES, WE WISH GIVE ANY SORT OF NOD TO ROWLAND'S EXPEDITION TO EGYPT IN SEARCH OF SA-7 MISSILES. WE WOULD AGREE WITH KAUNDA'S VIEW, AS ALLEGEDLY TOLD TO ROWLAND, THAT MILITARY EFFECT OF ZAMBIA'S ACQUISITION OF SIX TO TEN OF THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE INCONSEQUENTIAL BUT THAT POLITICAL IMPACT ON ZAMBIAN ARMY COMMANDERS AND ON ZAMBIA'S NEIGHBORS WOULD BE IMPRESSIVE. THERE WAS QUITE A STIR IN STATE HOUSE, AND PROBABLY AMONG ZAMBIAN MILITARY LEADERS AS WELL, SOMETIME AGO WHEN FIRST REPORTS CAME IN THAT RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAD ACQUIRED SAM-7'S FROM SOVIETS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE KAUNDA WOULD SEE HIS POLITICAL SITUATION EITHER DOMESTICALLY

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OR WITHIN REGION REALLY MATERIALLY IMPROVED IF IT BECAME KNOWN OR SUSPECTED THAT USG HAD EITHER FOREKNOWLEDGE OR DIRECT HAND IN ARRANGING FOR ZAMBIA ACQUISITION OF THESE ARMS. INDEED, KAUNDA MAY EVEN BE INDUCED TO WONDER WHY, IF USG HAD SUCH CONNECTIONS, IT DID NOT USE THEM EARLIER TO ARRANGE FOR SUPPLY OF ARMS TO FNLA/UNITA FORCES AFTER CONGRESS CUT OFF FUNDING FOR OUR COVERT ARMS SUPPLY TO ANGOLANS.

6. STATE'S 045304 RECEIVED AFTER FOREGOING DRAFTED.  
WE AGREE FULLY WITH FYI COMMENT.  
WILKOWSKI

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## Message Attributes

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